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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07662 251403Z

43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 002232
O 251336Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1874

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7662

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT FORD FROM PRESIDENT SARKIS

REF: STATE 228799

1. FOLLOWING IS MESSAGE RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE ON SEPT 25 AT 1515 HOURS FROM PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT BAABDA WITH REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT SARKIS THAT IT BE SENT TO PRESIDENT GERALD FORD. LT. ABU-NADER OF PRESIDENT SARKIS'S STAFF, WHO PASSED THIS MESSAGE, SAID THAT "WHEN IT IS MORE CALM," THE LETTER WILL BE DELIVERED TO EMBASSY BEIRUT FOR TRANSMITTAL TO WASHINGTON.

2. BEGIN TEXT QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:
THANK YOU FOR THE KIND AND ENCOURAGING MESSAGE THAT YOU HAVE CONVEYED TO ME UPON MY TAKING OFFICE AS THE PRESIDENT OF LEBANON. THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED MY ASSUMPTION OF THE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES DESPITE THE LONG PERIOD OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN LEBANON CANNOT BUT CONFIRM THE STRONG BELIEF OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE IN THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY WHICH CONSTITUTE THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM. IT IS ALSO MY SINCERE HOPE THAT THE LEBANESE PEOPLE, GUIDED BY ITS TRADITIONAL CONVICTIONS
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IN THOSE IDEALS, AS WELL AS BY ITS SOLID ATTACHMENT

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TO ITS INDEPENDENCE, ITS NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL UNITY, WILL SUCCEED TO FIND IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE A SOLUTION TO ITS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS IN A PEACEFUL MANNER CONSONANT WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE, THE NATURAL DEDICATION OF LEBANON AND THE ROLE IT HAS ASSUMED ALL ALONG ITS LONG HISTORY AMONG ALL OTHER NATIONS. IT IS OBVIOUS, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE ATTAINMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD GREATLY CONTRIBUTE IN THE POLITICAL STABILITY OF THE AREA AND PARTICULARLY IN LEBANON; I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT ALL POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS WHICH WOULD LEAD TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THOSE OBJECTIVES. IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH HAVE FOR SO LONG EXISTED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, IT IS ALSO MY SINCERE HOPE THAT LEBANON WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP FURTHER THOSE RELATIONS AND TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND MOST PARTICULARLY IN THE DELICATE AND DIFFICULT PROCESS OF OUR COUNTRY'S RECOVERY.
SINCERELY, ELIAS SARKIS. UNQUOTE.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (SARKIS, ELIAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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